

The Tribulation Harvest (Message #19)

Revelation 7: 9-17

Tonight we continue our study in this time of pause in the judgment of God. We saw the Lord set aside 144,000 Jewish men to evangelize the world during the Tribulation.

Tonight we get to see the fruit of their labor as a great multitude comes to know Christ. This has always been the desire of the great God we serve. He wants men to come to Him in salvation. This is why Jesus came to dwell upon the earth. [Mat.1:21 – And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.](#) Even during the Tribulation, grace will be extended that men might be saved! Let's continue our study and consider: [The Tribulation Harvest](#).

I. The Presence of the Multitude (9) – [After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;](#) John now sees a multitude in heaven after the sealing of the 144,000. These are those who were saved in Christ.

A. Their Numbers – John described them as [a great multitude, which no man could number.](#) He sees a group so large that it is impossible to count them. Imagine the joy he felt after seeing the devastation of the Tribulation. Here stands another multitude that has been saved!

- This stands as a testimony to the mercy of God. He has once again, like so many times before, given mercy and grace to undeserving men.

B. Their Nationalities – This wasn't just a select group that was spared. They have come from [all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.](#) People of all races, societies, and ethnic backgrounds were included in this multitude. The gospel was preached on every corner of the earth and people responded. The Jews were 1st sealed and then God showed mercy to the gentiles.

- This blows a hole in a lot of people's theology. God doesn't just save the powerful or wealthy. It isn't limited to the white race of people. Jesus died for all men, whatever their skin color or background! The love and mercy of Jesus went beyond all barriers to reach all men.

C. Their Nature – [They are seen standing before the Lord.](#) They have been accepted of God and He has given them the glorious privilege of coming before Him. Notice:

1. Their Virtue – Once again we see redeemed saints standing in [white robes](#). They now possess the righteousness of God through Jesus our Lord. He has placed His righteousness upon them.

2. Their Victory – They are holding [palms in their hands](#). Palms are a symbol of victory. Remember the crowd waving palm branches as Jesus made His triumphant entry? These have overcome and won the victory over sin, Satan, and the world dominated by Antichrist. They will now enjoy all that heaven has to offer.

I. The Presence of the Multitude (9)

II. The Praise of the Multitude (10-12) – John immediately sees the multitude praising the Lord. Notice:

A. Their Praise is Offered (10) – [And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb](#). They are shouting praises unto the Lord and the Lamb for their redemption. They realize that it was the grace of God and the blood of Christ that secured their salvation.

- That challenges me to offer praise unto the Lord. I have experienced His marvelous grace. I too have been washed in the blood. The redeemed ought to lift praises unto the Lord. You may not down here, but you will in heaven!

B. Their Praise is Overwhelming (11-12) – [And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen](#). As the redeemed saints begin to praise the Lord, it compels the angelic host to do so as well. Can you imagine the sight and sounds as John beheld millions praise the Lord around the throne? What a magnificent time that will be!

- By the way, praise is contagious. If you are saved and someone else begins to praise the Lord, it will excite something within your soul. Don't hold back; you just might encourage someone else to lift praises unto the Lord!

I. The Presence of the Multitude (9)

II. The Praise of the Multitude (10-12)

III. The Providence of the Multitude (13-14) – And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. As the multitude praises God, one of the elders asked, “Who are these and where did they come from?” John didn’t know, but the elder did. Notice his explanation.

A. Their Record (14a) – These are they which came out of great tribulation. These have endured the tribulation and believed on Christ for salvation. They were people like you and me in need of a Savior. There was no goodness within them. They stood condemned in sin and needed forgiveness.

- We all needed to find forgiveness for our sin. Rom.3:10 – As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. Just as Jesus was merciful unto them in Tribulation, He is merciful to whosoever will today. Men need to see themselves lost and turn to Jesus. He will save all who come to Him!

B. Their Redemption (14b) – These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The multitude needed the same thing that all men need, cleansing in the blood of Calvary. There are many today who see no need of preaching the cross. They view it a “slaughter house” religion. The shed blood of Calvary is the only way of salvation. All who have ever come have come through the blood.

- I’m sure you can ask anyone in heaven, “How did you get here;” and their response will all be the same. We came through the blood, by the way of the cross. These were saved by Jesus’ blood and if you intend on making it to heaven, you’ll have to come that way too. There isn’t hope in any other. There aren’t many ways to heaven, only through the blood! I trust you’ve been covered in the blood.

IV. The Position of the Multitude (15-17) – These are no longer enduring the torments of the Tribulation and the persecution of Satan. They have arrived on that heavenly shore never to leave.

- This isn't the church; we're already there, but they will enjoy the splendor of heaven just like we will. Let's take a look at this glorious position the multitude has been given.

A. A Heavenly Priority (15a) – [Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple](#): They are found around the throne of God, serving the Lord day and night. The trouble and heartaches of life are past and they now stand before the Lord thanking Him for all He has done.

- That will be the priority for all the redeemed. We like to think about the street of gold, the gates of pearl, the walls of jasper, and the mansions in heaven. We all talk about the reunion with loved ones. All of that will be great, but our main priority will be worshipping the One who saved us from our sin. We may spend a thousand years at the feet of Jesus before we even pause in our praise. Jesus will be the focus of heaven!

B. A Heavenly Presence (15b) – [and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them](#).

God shall dwell among us in heaven. We have never experienced the complete presence of God. That will all change when we get there. We will have all of eternity to enjoy the presence of our God. He will be in our midst all the time. That really excites me. I have nothing to claim within myself, nothing worthy of being in the presence of God, but He will grant that to each of us who are saved.

- I can't imagine what it will be like to stand in the presence of God for ever and ever. I have felt His presence many times, and loved it, but I'm sure that won't even compare to the glory of being in His divine presence. Peter didn't want to come off of the mountain. He wanted to build tabernacles and stay. [Lord, it is good for us to be here](#). It will be even better in heaven!

C. A Heavenly Provision (16) – [They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat](#). These weren't treated as second class citizens. They too enjoyed all that heaven had to offer. Their life of misery and pain was over and now they had the abundance of heaven to enjoy. Jesus made provision for them, as He will for us. We can claim the promises made to the multitude as well. They are promised:

1. No More Hunger – Consider the hunger that they must've faced upon the earth. The tribulation had brought a time of great famine. We haven't dealt with it yet, but for those who refuse the mark of the beast, they will be denied to buy or sell. These must've spent some hungry days upon the earth. Jesus has promised to never hunger again.

2. No More Thirst – The waters of the earth were made bitter and even turned to blood. These surely suffered from thirst while enduring the Tribulation. Here Jesus has promised to lead them to the living fountains of water, never to thirst again.

3. No More Suffering – The [sun lighting on them](#) speaks of the terrible suffering they endured. [Rev.16:8-9 – And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.](#) Imagine the turmoil of the sun's heat being intensified without sufficient water to drink, as their tongues must've swelled within their mouths. All of the suffering and hardship is gone!

4. No More Sorrow – I can't begin to imagine what these will go through during the Tribulation. No doubt they will shed many tears of sorrow. Once in heaven God will wipe all those tears away. There will be nothing there to cause grief or sorrow.

I'm glad to know that I'll miss the torments these will face. I look forward to the joys of heaven. Make sure you're saved. You won't have the opportunity to be in this number; you've already heard the gospel!